

THE DICTIONARY OF VICTORIAN PRISON SLANG

A lexicon of current & obsolete slang terms, general terms,
sayings, abbreviations & acronyms used by prisoners in prisons
in Victoria, Australia.

2018

Introduction

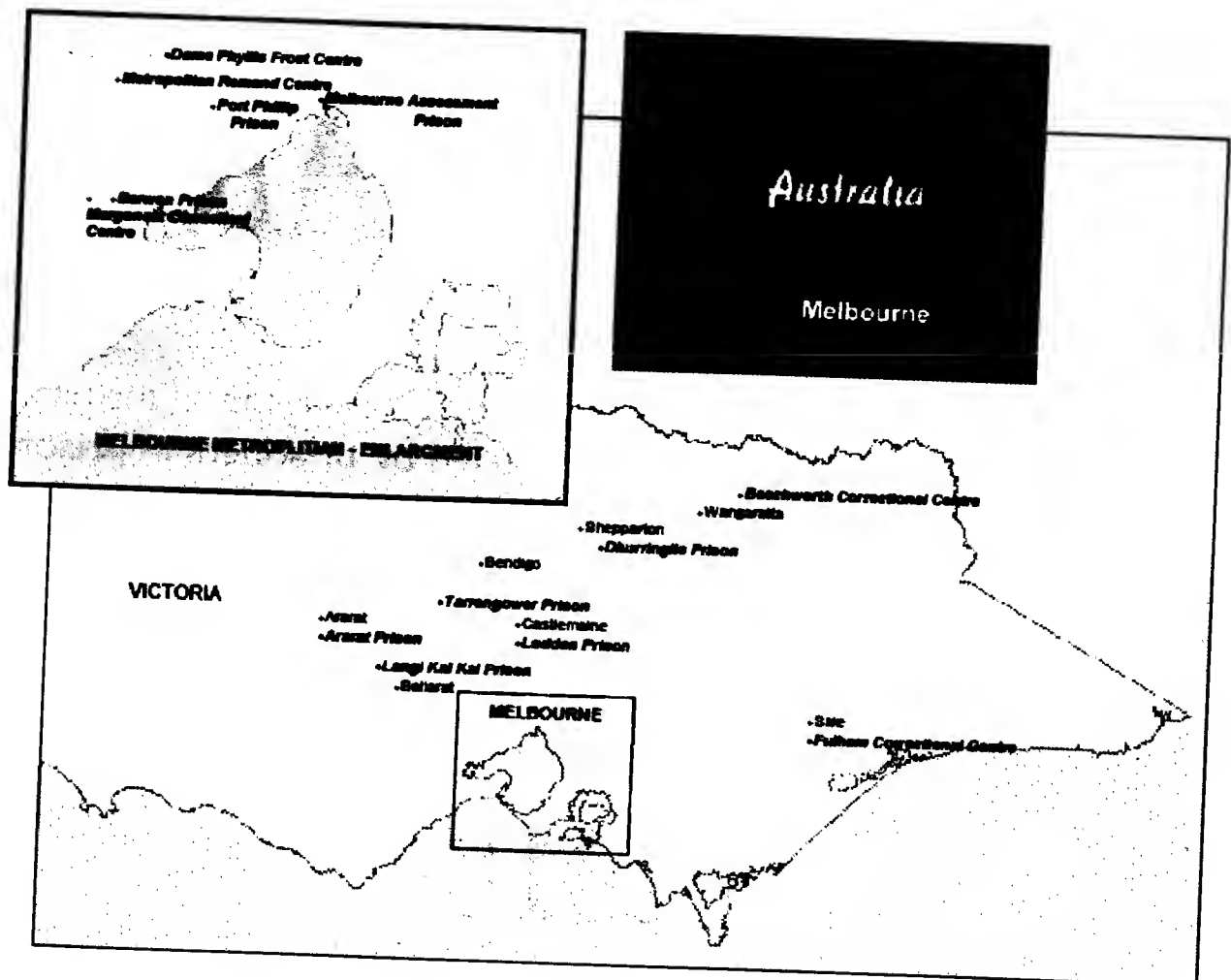
'*The Dictionary of Victorian Prison Slang*' is a compilation of both current and obsolete slang terms, general terms, sayings, abbreviations & acronyms used by prisoners in Victorian prisons. The emphasis of this dictionary is on modern (i.e. 1970s onwards) terms but includes terms that are obsolete, archaic or no longer in common usage.

Where a word has a conventional definition, the appropriate definition from *The Macquarie Dictionary* (Third Edition, Macquarie University, 1998) is included. General Australian slang & words that have a general meaning known outside of prison are generally not included, although some of these terms are included if they have a special meaning within Victorian prisons.

Examples of usage are given for many of the terms & many terms are cross-referenced with other terms in the dictionary.

Historical & other general information taken from secondary sources (books, reports & court cases) is also included where appropriate. The names of all the main gaols & prisons that have operated in Victoria since 1842 are also included.

A copy of this publication can be accessed through the website of the Sydney-based organization Justice Action (see www.justiceaction.org.au).



A

AAU: 1. *acronym* Acute Assessment Unit. The specialist unit at the MAP where male prisoners are psychiatrically assessed. Originally located in G Division in HM Metropolitan Reception Prison.

A, B, C Rating: 1. Every prisoner & prison in Victoria is assigned a Security Rating of A (Maximum Security), B (Medium Security), or C (Minimum Security). A Security Rating for a prisoner that has been assigned an asterisk (*) indicates that the prisoner is a Special Category prisoner or is designated as a Major Offender. See "Security Rating".

Adult Parole Board: 1. Contraction of 'Adult Parole Board of Victoria'. The Board was established on 1 July 1957 pursuant to the *Penal Reform Act 1956* (Vic), & oversees the parole of all adult prisoners in Victoria.

Air raid: 1. *vb* To yell abuse, usually from behind a locked cell door. See "bake" & "burn".

Annual Review: 1. Every prisoner in Victoria must have his classification & placement reviewed on an annual basis, as per section 47(1)(l) of the *Corrections Act 1986* (Vic). This review, at which the prisoner appears before a Sentence Management Panel, is referred to as his or her "Annual Review".

APB: 1. *acronym* Adult Parole Board (of Victoria). See "Adult Parole Board".

Ararat: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Ararat', the medium security prison formerly (1967-2012) known as HMP Ararat located five kilometres east of Ararat & 200 kilometres from Melbourne in western Victoria. Now known (since 2012) as the Hopkins Correctional Centre. (Note that prisons in Victoria are usually referred to simply by their location or name, e.g. "Beechworth", "Barwon"). Operated as a mainstream prison (1967-1993) then as a protection prison (1993-). 2. (*Australian Place Names*) **Ararat** a township ninety kilometres west of Ballarat, was named by its first settler Horatio Wills, who reached the area in 1841. After reaching the top of a 600-metre hill overlooking good pasture land, he wrote: 'This is Mount Ararat, for, like the Ark, we rested here'.

Armed rob: 1. Contraction of 'armed robbery'. Example; "He did an armed rob on a 7-11."

Arunta: 1. The Arunta Prisoner Telephone System. A computerized telephone system developed by Telstra® especially for prisons. Also known by the acronym 'ACTS' (Arunta Controlled Telephone System'). Prisoners in Victoria are entitled to have a maximum of 10 pre-approved telephone numbers on their telephone account & all calls are for 12 minutes duration. All calls are recorded but only "private" calls are monitored.

B

Bag of fruit: 1. *rhyming slang* A suit, especially for wearing to court.

Bail: 1. To be released into the community while awaiting trial. See "bail app". 2. (*Butterworths Australian Legal Dictionary*) The right to be released from custody granted to a person charged with an offence, on the condition that he or she undertakes to return to the court at some specified time, and any other conditions that the court may impose. 3. *vb* To be removed immediately from a unit at the prisoner's own request (i.e. as a way of avoiding being assaulted or to avoid paying off one's debts). Example; "He bailed from the unit because he owed 20 pouches." See "professional bail".

Bail app: 1. An application for release on bail pursuant to the *Bail Act 1977* (Vic).

Bake: 1. To yell personal abuse. Example; "He copped a bad bake after lock-up last night." See "air raid" & "burn".

Bang it: 1. *vb* To insert something into the rectum. 2. A derisive response. Example; "You can bang it!"

Bang-up: 1. *vb* To bang on a locked cell door from inside the cell as a means of attracting attention or as a protest. Example; "They banged-up all night down the Slot last night."

B Annexe: 1. *n* A section of B Division in HMP Pentridge that was created initially in 1982 to house female prisoners (following a fire at Fairlea Women's Prison), then used (1988-1995) to house intellectually disabled or vulnerable prisoners & known as the Endeavour Special Unit.

Barwon: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Barwon', a maximum security prison located at Lara, 70 kilometres south-west of Melbourne between Melbourne & Geelong. Constructed during 1986-1989 & opened in January 1990 as the first prison to operate according to the "unit management" philosophy. Home to most of the Victorian prison system's "management" units.

Bay, the: 1. Contraction of Long Bay Prison, the maximum security prison located in Sydney, New South Wales. See "Long Bay".

B Division: 1. *n* One of the main divisions in HMP Pentridge. It was built in 1859 & originally called "the Panoptican" (after Jeremy Bentham's panoptican prison design). A wing of the division was separated in 1982 to house female prisoners following a fire at HMP Fairlea.

BDRP: 1. *acronym* Building Design Review Project. A review of cell safety & fire prevention across the entire Victorian prison system completed in 2000-2001. Full title: Building Design Review Project & Prison Cell & Fire Safety Rectification Project. The BDRP developed cell safety standards in response to the Victorian State Coroner's findings into five deaths at Port Phillip Prison during 1997-1998. The project aimed to remove hanging points from maximum & medium security cells & to improve fire safety in all prisons. Such re-designed cells are known as "BDRP cells".

Beak: 1. *n* A magistrate. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **beak**² *noun* Colloquial 1. a magistrate; judge.

Beech, the: 1. *n* Nickname of the old medium security HMP Beechworth, located at Beechworth in northern Victoria. The last prison to have its cells sewered (in 1994) & the second last bluestone prison to be closed (in November 2004) in Victoria.

Beechworth: 1. Contraction of HM Prison Beechworth, the former (1860-1910 & 1927-2004) medium security prison located at Beechworth, 272 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, in northern Victoria. The prison originally held both male & female prisoners, but held only male prisoners after it re-opened in 1927. During 1991-1993, the prison held protection prisoners. The infamous bushranger Ned Kelly served time in the prison in the 1870s. It was the last prison to have its cells sewered (in 1994) & the second last bluestone prison to be closed (in November 2004) in Victoria. 2. Contraction of Beechworth Correctional Centre, the current (2005-) minimum security prison located at Beechworth in northern

Victoria. 3. (*Australian Place Names*) **Beechworth** surveyed in 1853 by Smythe who named the settlement after his birthplace in Leicestershire, England.

Belted: 1. To be assaulted. Example; "He copped a belting in the cells from the Jacks."

Bendigo: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Bendigo', formerly (1863-1942 & 1947-2006) a medium security prison located at Bendigo in central Victoria. Opened in 1863 as HMP Sandhurst, it was the second last prison to have its cells sewerred (in 1993) & the last bluestone prison to be closed (in January 2006) in Victoria. The second smallest prison in Victoria (80 beds) during its operation. Scene of a siege by a prisoner during 20-21 August 1987. 2.

(*Australian Place Names*) **Bendigo** a city in central Victoria, is named indirectly after British pugilist Abednego William Thompson who was famous at the time the settlement was christened in 1851.

Bib-&-brace overalls: 1. *n* Overalls consisting of a bib & two over-the-shoulder braces. A favoured type of overalls now banned in Victorian prisons due to the metal attachments which set off metal detectors.

Big hard cunt: 1. A term of derision or affection suggesting that the prisoner concerned tries to project an image that he is tough. Example; "That bloke struts around like he thinks he's a big hard cunt."

Billet: 1. *n* A coveted work assignment within a division or unit, or in another prison location that usually involves general cleaning duties. Such positions usually involve less work than an assignment in the prison industries & are better paid. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 5. A job or appointment, especially (formerly) that obtained by a convict, often as an indulgence.

Black Book: 1. The Minor Offences Register. So-named because the Register was a large hardcover black coloured book.

Black Booked: 1. *vb* To be entered in the "Black Book".

Black Panadol: 1. *n* A short rubber lead-lined baton. So-called because they represented a black rubber version of the Panadol™ headache tablet. Prison officers previously carried these batons in a slot sown inside the right leg of their trousers.

Bluestone jail: 1. *n* A prison constructed of bluestone (the most common building material for constructing prisons in Victoria during 1854-1927 as opposed to the sandstone used in other States of Australia). The last bluestone jail in Victoria, HMP Bendigo, was closed in January 2006.

Board, the: 1. Contraction of 'Adult Parole Board of Victoria'.

Boggo Road: 1. Contraction of Boggo Road Prison, the former maximum security prison located in Brisbane, Queensland.

Boner: 1. *n* A "shiv", especially one used as a stabbing implement. See "shiv". 2. A protection prisoner, one from the "Bone Yard".

Bone Yard: 1. *n* The protection area of a prison. 2. The protection stream of the prison system.

Boob, the: 1. *n* Prison. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **boob²** *noun* Colloquial prison. [shortened form of BOOBY HATCH]

Boob cat: 1. *n* A homosexual or bi-sexual prisoner.

Boob happy: 1. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *adjective Prison Colloquial* suffering from a form of neurosis brought about by the strain of jail routine.

Boobhead: 1. *n* Nickname for a prisoner who has become institutionalized or who has been around for many years. Someone with a "low CRN". 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *noun Prison Colloquial* a recidivist. [BOOB² + -HEAD²]

Boob shoes: 1. *n* Brown leather slip-on shoes that were formerly issued as compulsory prison footwear for billets.

Boob tatt: 1 *n* Contraction of 'boob tattoo'. Tattoos done illicitly in prison with a "tattoo gun".

Boo-goo (also **Burgoo**): 1. *n* Porridge.

Boot(ed): 1. *n* The rectum. Example; "He stashed those pills in his boot." 2. *vb* To conceal contraband by inserting it into the rectum. Example; "He booted some smokes before he went down the Slot."

Boot off: 1.*vb* To leave. Example; "I think it's time to boot off."

Boss: 1. *n* A term of address to prison officer. Example; "Can you open my cell, boss?"

Boy: 1. *n* A young male prisoner who is used as a sexual partner by an older prisoner.

Boys Home: 1. *n* An archaic term for any youth centre or orphanage. See "YTC". Among the most infamous Boys Homes in Victoria were Bayswater, Malmsbury, Turana & St Augustine's.

Box, screws': 1. *n* The prison officers' station in a division or unit.

Box visit: 1. *n* A non-contact visit conducted in a divided cubicle. Every prisoner in Victoria is entitled to receive one non-contact visit of 30 minutes duration per week, pursuant to section 47(1)(k) of the *Corrections Act 1986* (Vic). See "Midnight Express visit".

Brasco: 1. *n* A prison toilet, especially a stainless steel one. The name is thought to derive from the manufacturer of these toilets. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *noun Colloquial* a toilet. [origin unknown]

Brawler: 1. *n* A large police van. Brawlers used to be the standard form of prisoner transport in Victoria but have been replaced by purpose-built prison transport vans.

Breached: 1. *vb* To have one's parole breached by the Adult Parole Board. Example; "I got breached for non-compliance." See "non-compliance".

Breaking rocks: 1. A reference to the punishment in H Division, HMP Pentridge, whereby prisoners were required to use a sledgehammer to break a large bluestone block into small pieces. The punishment was abolished in 1975. See "H Division".

Break off: 1. The command given to prisoners after they have been counted on a muster. See "muster".

Brew: 1. *n* A cup of tea or coffee.

Brick, a: 1. *n* A sentence of 10 years imprisonment. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 9. *Prison Colloquial* a prison sentence of ten years' duration. - *verb* (t).

Bridge up: 1. To ostentatiously stand erect for the purpose of presenting a well-built physique. Example; "He bridges up every time someone looks at him in the gym."

Brief: 1. *n* A Hand-Up Brief of evidence. Example; "Have you got your brief from the DPP yet?" 2. *n* A barrister. 3. *vb* To brief (give instructions to) a lawyer. Example; "Who are you going to brief for your appeal?" 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 7. *Law* a summary prepared by a solicitor for a barrister, containing all the information & documents relevant to the presentation of a case in court. 8. *Colloquial* a barrister. 13. *Law* to retain as advocate in a suit.

Bronze-up: 1. *vb* A form of protest involving smearing the walls of a cell with excreta. Known in Northern Ireland as a "dirty protest".

Brought Undone: 1. To be implicated or to have a "rort" uncovered. Example; "I got brought undone when he red lighted me." See "red light", "unearthed".

Buddy cell: 1. *n* Two single cells connected by an internal door. Designed to allow for a vulnerable prisoner (i.e. a prisoner at risk of self-harm) to be housed next to another prisoner who is a 'stabiliser'. Hardly ever used for this purpose or any other purpose other than as two single cells.

Bupe: 1. *n* Buprenorphine. An opiate substitute.

Burgoo (also **Boo-goo**): 1. *n* Porridge. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 2. *Colloquial* any similar porridge-like food, as prison hominy. Also **bergoo**.

Burn: 1. *vb* To yell personal abuse or to receive such abuse. Example; "He copped a bad burn after lock-up last night." See "air raid" & "bake". 2. *vb* To inhale drugs vaporized by being heated on tin foil with a naked flame.

Bush gang: 1. *n* A group of prisoners working in the community, usually in a rural area. Prisoners in minimum security prisons are regularly assigned to "bush gangs" that perform re-forestation work & similar work each weekday. The "bush gangs" are overseen by a prison officer overseer. Synonymous with "work gang".

Bus-man: 1. *n* Bastardisation of 'Ombudsman'.

Buzz-up: 1. *vb* To use a cell intercom to speak to prison staff (usually after "lock-up").

C

Canteen: 1. *n* The prison canteen. Example; "I saw him over at the canteen." 2. *n* A Prisoner's weekly canteen spend. Example; "Did you get your canteen this week?"

CAPRTPP: 1. *acronym* Corrections Administration Permits & Rehabilitation & Transition Permit Program. A temporary leave program that replaced the CCP in October 2003.

Castlemaine: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Castlemaine', the former (1861-1990) medium security prison located at Castlemaine, north-west of Melbourne in central Victoria. 2. (*Australian Place Names*) named at the request of Governor [Joseph] La Trobe [the first Governor of Victoria, 1851-1854] after Castlemaine in Ireland, because Viscount Castlemaine was the uncle of the chief goldfields commissioner, Captain W. Wright. Victorians pronounce this with a short 'a' as in 'ass', not a long 'a' as in 'farce'.

Cat: 1. *n* A homosexual or bi-sexual prisoner. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **cat**⁴ 2. Prison a male inmate who, while heterosexual outside of prison, submits to the passive role in homosexual sex.

Cave: 1. *n* A cell.

Cave dweller: 1. *n* A prisoner who spends all their time in their cell.

CBO: 1. *acronym* Community Based Order. A court order that the person concerned complete a set number of hours (from 8 up to 500) of unpaid community work. Also used as a means of converting fines (at a rate of around \$20 per hour) into community work.

CCO: 1. *acronym* Community Corrections Officer.

CCP: 1. *acronym* Custodial Community Permit. A "day leave" or "temporary leave" pass issued pursuant to the "CCPP".

CCPP: 1. *acronym* Custodial Community Permit Program. The program of temporary leaves established in Victoria in 1973, suspended temporarily in 1989 & replaced by the CAPRTPP in 2003.

CCS: 1. *acronym* Community Correctional Services. The branch of Corrections Victoria that oversees CBOs & prisoners on parole in the community.

C Division: 1. *n* A division in HMP Pentridge closed in 1975. Notorious for having windowless cells without power or plumbing.

Cell, terms for: "cave", cell, "peter".

Cell points: 1. The points that are assigned to each item of personal property a prisoner has in his or her cell in addition to prison-issue items. An item's points value varies depending on the item (e.g. a book = 1 point, a stereo = 20 points) & prisoners are generally permitted 50-100 cell points worth of personal property.

Cells, the: 1. *n* A reference to the holding cells in police watch-houses or at the courts; not a reference to prison cells. Example; "I got stuck in the cells for a week!"

Champ: 1. *rhyming slang* Tamp (tamperer). See "tamp(erer)".

Chat: 1. *n* An untidy & unclean prisoner. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **Chatty**² *adj* *Obsolete Colloquial* dirty; lousy. [*chat louse*]

Chicken: 1. *n* Nickname for Buprenorphine.

Chief: 1. *n* Contraction of 'Chief Prison Officer'. The current title for this position is Supervisor but the term "chief" is still used to refer to a prison officer holding this position.

Chocolate Frog: 1. *rhyming slang* A dog. See "dog".

Chocolate mousse: 1. *rhyming slang* A goose. See "goose".

Chook pen: 1. *n* A prison exercise yard, especially one enclosed by wire fences.

Chop out: 1. To give assistance to someone, usually in the form of lending some commodity; i.e. tobacco. Example; "Can you give me a chop-out until next week?"

CIP: 1. *acronym* Community Integration Program. A pre-release program that was previously available to prisoners in the last 3 months of their sentence during 1991-2002.

Classification: 1. *n* A classification board. The classification of prisoners is carried out by local Review & Assessment Committees & by Sentence Management Panels that constitute part of Corrections Victoria's Sentence Management Unit. See "R&A" & "SMU". Example; "Have you seen classification yet?" 2. The allocation of a prisoner's Security Rating by a classification board or SMP. Example; "What's your classification?"

Classo: 1. *n* Classification Board. The former title of the Sentence Management Panel. See "Sentence Management".

Classoed: 1. To be classified to a certain location. Example; "I got classoed to Loddon."

Coburg Prisons Complex: 1. The name for the combination of HMP Pentridge & HM Metropolitan Reception Prison during 1995-1997.

Co-ee: 1. *n* Co-offender.

Collator: 1. *n* The prison officer responsible at each prison for the collection, assimilation & evaluation of "intel". See "intel".

Commissioner: 1. *n* The most senior prison official in Victoria. Previously (1983 -1995) known as the Director-General of Corrections.

Community work: 1. A court-ordered punishment involving an order that the person concerned complete a set number of hours (from 8 up to 500) of unpaid community work. See "CBO".

Contact visit: 1. A visit where the prisoner & his or her visitors are permitted physical contact in a visit centre. A privilege that can be removed pursuant to LOPs or due to an IDU status. See "LOPs" & "IDU".

Cop it sweet: 1. To accept something unpleasant without complaint. Example; "They forgot to get his canteen and he just copped it sweet."

Cops: 1. *n* The police. (Note that in US prison slang "cops" is a reference to prison officers. In Australia the term only refers to the police.) 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **cop** *noun* *Colloquial-* *noun* 1. a police officer.

CORE: 1. A reference to the Public Correctional Enterprise, the title of the public sector prison system during 1996-2003.

Corrections Act: 1. The *Corrections Act 1986* (Vic). An Act of the Parliament of Victoria that regulates the prison & parole systems in Victoria.

Corrections Regulations: 1. The *Corrections Regulations 2009* (Vic). Regulations issued by the Victorian Minister for Corrections. Subordinate to the *Corrections Act 1986* (Vic).

Corrections Victoria: 1 *n* The current name of the Victorian prisons authority that replaced (in 1995) the title Correctional Services Division of the Department of Justice. See "OOC".

Cottage(s): 1. *n* A minimum security 4-8 man unit where prisoners cook for themselves, often located in medium security prisons.

Cotton on: 1. To become aware of something. Example; "Did he cotton on to what you were doing?"

Count: 1. A headcount of prisoners. Synonymous with "muster".

Courses: 1. TAFE or rehabilitation programs. See "programs".

Couta: 1. Bastardisation of *coup d'grace*; something acceptable or exceptional. Example; "The gear I got yesterday was the couta."

Country, go: 1. To be transferred to a medium or minimum security prison located in the countryside.

Crew: 1. *n* A gang of criminals or prisoners (coincidentally also used by the police to refer to the sections within a particular squad; e.g. Crew 4 of the Homicide Squad).

Crew up: 1. To gather criminals or prisoners into a "crew"; to form a "crew".

Crim: 1. *n* A professional criminal. Also used as a general reference to prisoners. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *Colloquial - noun* 1. a criminal.

CRN: 1. *acronym* Corrections Reference Number. Often mistakenly believed to mean "Criminal Record Number". Introduced in 1983 when the responsibility for prisons was moved from the Social Welfare Department to the newly established Office of Corrections. The numbers have been issued consecutively & are only issued once. CRNs are issued to anyone in Victoria who receives some sort of curial punishment (i.e. imprisonment, probation, community work, fines). Once given a CRN a person will retain that number throughout his/her life.

Crown, the: 1. *n* The prosecution in criminal matters. So-called because the prosecutor appears as a representative of the State of Victoria. See "Crown witness".

Crownie: 1. *n* Contraction of 'Crown witness'; a witness who appears for the prosecution in a criminal trial. Example; "He was a crownie in that murder trial last year." 2. *vb* To give evidence for the Crown (prosecution). Example; "Is he going crownie on you?"

Crown witness: 1. *n* Someone who has appeared as a witness for the Crown (prosecution) in a criminal trial. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *noun* a witness for the Crown in a criminal prosecution.

Crumb: 1. *n* A prisoner without any resources.

Cunt: 1. *n* A general term of abuse or affection, or even as a general term of reference, used frequently by both male & female prisoners. Example 1; "He's a low cunt." Example 2; "He's a funny cunt." Example 3; "Check out that cunt over there."

Cunt's act, a: 1. *adj* A despicable act. Example; "Getting on the van without paying his debts was a dead-set cunt's act."

Cut laps: 1. *vb* To walk laps in an exercise yard. See "laps".

CV: 1. *acronym* Corrections Victoria. Created in 1995 to replace the title Correctional Services Division of the Department of Justice.

D

Dark: 1. To keep something secret. Example; "Keep that rort dark."

Dash: 1. *adj* Physical courage. Example; "That bloke's got a lot of dash."

Day leaves: 1. A temporary absence from a prison. A system of temporary leaves has existed in Victoria since 1973. See "CCP", "CCPP", "leaves" & "temporary leaves".

Days off: 1. Days subtracted from a sentence due to remissions or EMDs. See "EMDs".

D Division: 1. *n* The notorious three-tier bluestone remand division of HMP Pentridge/HM Metropolitan Reception Prison. Prisoners were accommodated in two-out cells & changed cells on a daily basis. The division was built in 1894 & originally used for female prisoners.

Deal: 1. *n* A saleable portion of drugs.

Dealer: 1. *n* A drug dealer.

Death penalty: 1. A reference to when capital punishment (hanging) was lawful in Victoria (1836-1975). From the settlement of the Port Phillip District in 1836 to the last execution in 1967, 186 people were executed in Victoria (181 men & 5 women) at 6 country prisons (Ararat, Ballarat, Beechworth, Bendigo, Castlemaine & Geelong) & 2 prisons in Melbourne (Melbourne & Pentridge). The youngest was only 18; the oldest 71. Of the total, 147 were hung for murder, 1 for attempted murder, 15 for shooting (i.e. "bushranging"), 9 for robbery, 9 for rape, 2 for carnal knowledge, 1 for sodomy, 1 for burglary & 1 for arson. See Appendix 1 to Lyn & Armstrong *"From Pentonville to Pentridge: A History of Prisons in Victoria"*. Contrary to popular belief, most people convicted of murder in the 20th Century were not hung but had their death sentence commuted to life imprisonment (and which never resulted in anyone actually spending the rest of their life in prison). From 1900 to the last execution in 1967, only 23 people were executed in Victoria (21 for murder, 1 for arson & 1 for carnal knowledge). In the period 1928-1987, 11 people were hung for murder in Victoria but 88 had their death sentences commuted & were eventually released. The average period spent in prison before release was around 14 years & the longest serving prisoner served 27 years & 5 months for killing a police officer.

Declare: 1. *vb* To 'declare' (announce) that someone is an informer, thief, etc. Example; "The whole unit declared him."

DHS: 1. *n* Contraction of 'Department of Human Services'.

Dhurringile: 1. Contraction of 'HM Prison Dhurringile', a minimum security prison located at Dhurringile, 160 kilometres north of Melbourne, in northern Victoria. The prison was originally a homestead for a large farm. The farm's 68-room mansion was completed in 1877. During the Second World War it was used as an internment camp for 'alien citizens' & then for POWs. After the war, the property was used by as a training camp for orphans until it was purchased by the Victorian Government in 1965 for use as a minimum security prison. The prison operates as a working dairy farm although over the years the grounds have been reduced to just over 100 hectares (one square mile).

D-G's Rules: 1. Director-General's Rules. The department rules previously issued by the Director-General of Corrections. See "Director-General".

Director-General: 1. *n* Formerly (1983-1995) the most senior prison official in Victoria, previously (1853-1983) known as the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments & Gaols. Re-named Commissioner in 1995. See "Commissioner".

Dirty: 1. *n* To be annoyed at something or someone. Example; "I'm dirty on her for not writing back to me."

Dirty urine: 1. *n* A urinalysis sample or report that indicates the presence of illicit drugs.

Division: 1.*n* The former title of prison accommodation blocks which were normally alphabetized; i.e. A Division, B Division, etc.

D Division dorms: 1. A large dormitory that was originally located in D Division of HMP Pentridge/HM Metropolitan Reception Prison.

Divvy van: 1. *n* Contraction of 'divisional van'; a marked Victoria Police Holden or Ford panel van. Police divisional vans have been in use in Victoria since the 1960s. A uniquely Victorian chant of "You're going home in the back of a divvy van!" has historically erupted in the crowd at sporting events when someone is arrested for being disruptive or drunk and disorderly.

Dog: 1. *n* A Crown (prosecution) witness or prison informer, but also used as a general term of abuse. (Note that the term "top dog" often used by the media & in the TV series "Prisoner" is not actually used by prisoners.) 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 13. an informer; betrayer.

Dog's act, a: 1. A despicable act, especially one that results in a prisoner being charged with a prison offence.

DoJ: 1. *acronym* Department of Justice. Victorian Government department created in 1992 that encompasses the Courts Unit, Corrections Victoria & various other justice-related business units.

Dorm(s): 1. Contraction of 'dormitory'. Dormitories were thought to have become, with the closure of HMP Pentridge & HM Metropolitan Reception Prison, a thing of the past but have re-appeared at HMP Dhurringile. The dormitories in Pentridge & the MRP (D, E, F & J "dorms") were infamous for the brutality & pack-rapes that occurred in them.

Done: 1. Contraction of 'Methadone'.

DPFC: 1. *acronym* Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. Formerly the privately operated (by Corrections Corporation of Australia) Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre, the first private prison in Victoria. The MWCC was operated by CCA during 1996-2000, but was taken over by Corrections Victoria in October 2000. Re-named the DPFC in March 2001, in honour of Dame Phyllis Frost, who campaigned for many years for an improvement in the conditions for women prisoners. A maximum security women's prison located at Deer Park on the western outskirts of Melbourne. Due to its location, often referred to simply as "Deer Park".

Dr Death: 1. *n* Any prison doctor who is unsympathetic to prisoners' medical complaints & health issues.

Drop a note: 1. *vb* To post an anonymous note providing the prison authorities with information about another prisoner or prisoners.

Drug fucked: 1. *adj* To be permanently damaged physiologically by a drug habit; to be in a permanent stupor.

Drugs up: 1. The cry that emanates when the "meds trolley" arrives at a unit. Synonymous with "meds up!" See "meds trolley".

Drunk's lagging: 1. *n* An extremely short (i.e. less than 6 months) sentence. The term is, of course, relative to the prisoner you're speaking to; to a "Lifer", anyone doing less than 10 years is doing a "drunk's lagging"! See "shit-kicker".

DTU: 1. *acronym* Drug Treatment Unit. The treatment unit for drug addicted prisoners in G Division, HM Metropolitan Reception Prison, during 1987-1988 & K Division during 1988-1997.

DX: 1. *acronym* Document Exchange. The subscriber mail courier service (Document Transfer Service) that is operated by the private courier company AUSDOC.

DX number: 1. Document Exchange number. The number allocated to a location that subscribes to AUSDOC's DX service.

E

Earn: 1. A profitable criminal act. Example; "Robbing that warehouse was a good earn."

Eau d'cologne: 1. *rhyming slang* A telephone. Usually contracted to "ode'e".

Edgo: 1. Contraction of 'education'. A prison education centre. Example; "I'm going to edgo."

EDD: 1. *acronym* End Discharge Date. The date of the end of a prisoner's sentence. A prisoner's "top".

E Division: 1. A reference to E Division in HMP Pentridge, which consisted of a 40-man dormitory. Notorious for pack rapes that occurred there.

EED: 1. *acronym* Earliest Eligibility Date. The date of the end of prisoner's minimum non-parole term; his/her earliest eligibility date for release on parole. A prisoner's "bottom".

E*Justice: 1. A computerized information system created in the mid-2000s & operated by Corrections Victoria.

EMDs: 1. *acronym* Emergency Management Days. Days that are subtracted from a prisoner's sentence due to good behaviour while being locked-down as a result of industrial action by prison officers, or (very rarely) for meritorious conduct. Prisoners in Victoria traditionally receive 4 EMDs for every day they are locked-down during a strike by prison officers but not for lock-downs for "security" reasons (see *Pavic v Anderson* [2004] VSC 410, *Anderson v Pavic* [2005] VSCA 244 & *Kheir v Secretary to the Department of Justice & Regulation* [2018] VSC 222). See "lock-down". Prisoners can also receive up to 14 EMDs in exceptional circumstances, including as a reward for meritorious conduct. Such EMDs are very, *very* rarely given (see *Knight v Shuard* [2016] VSC 413).

Escort: 1. A transfer to another prison, to court or to a hospital. See "on the van".

ESO: 1. *acronym* Extended Supervision Order. The former title of Supervision Order. Court-ordered supervision of recidivist sex offenders (since 2005) & violent offenders (since 2018) who have completed their sentence & who are still considered to be an unacceptable risk to the community.

Exercise yard: 1. *n* A yard where prisoners are allowed to exercise. See "chook pen".

EWP: 1. *acronym* Essential Work Position. A prisoner work position considered essential to the operation of the prison. As the Corrections Victoria *Sentence Management Manual* states, it is the position, not the prisoner, which is essential.

F

Factories, the: 1. *n* Prison industries. See "salt mines".

Failed to appear: 1. Failed to appear in court. See "No appearance, Your Worship".

Failed to produce: 1. To fail to produce a urine sample for urinalysis. Prisoners in Victoria have 3 hours to produce a urine sample after being commanded to do so.

Fairlea: 1. Contraction of 'Fairlea Women's Prison', the former (1956-1996) maximum security women's prison located at Fairfield in inner-city Melbourne. Scene of a fire in which three prisoners died on 6 February 1982. Replaced by the Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre in 1996. See "MWCC" & "DPFC".

Fairlea Girl: 1. *n* A female prisoner who served time at the former (1956-1996) Fairlea Women's Prison at Fairfield in inner-city Melbourne.

Farm: 1. *n* A minimum security prison located in the countryside. Synonymous with "open camp".

F Division dorms: 1. A division of HMP Pentridge that was made up of large dormitories.

Fi-Fi: 1. An artificial vagina constructed out of any suitable material. Pronounced "Fee-fee".

50 grammer: 1. *n* A 50 gram pouch of tobacco. See "30 grammer".

Filter: 1. *n* A filtered cigarette.

Fine: 1. *n* A punishment of a fine of up to 1 penalty unit (\$120) awarded at a Governor's Court/Governor's Disciplinary Hearing.

Fines: 1. *n* Fines awarded by the Sheriff's Office that can be converted into prison time or to a "CBO".

Fire-up: 1. To get aggressive, especially in response to an insult or to an attack. Example; "He got called a dog & didn't even fire up."

Fishing line: 1. *n* A homemade line usually made from yarn taken from a prison-issue blanket used to pass a small item between cells, usually in "the Slot".

Fit, a: 1. *n* A syringe for injecting drugs.

5, 8: 1. *rhyming slang* A mate.

501 certificate/order: 1. *n* A deportation order issued on "bad character" (i.e. criminal record or criminal associations) grounds; so-called because it is issued pursuant to section 501 of the *Migration Act 1958* (Cth). Such an order is signed personally by the Minister for Immigration or his/her representative. A non-citizen removed from Australia by such an order is permanently barred from re-entering Australia.

Flag: 1. *n* A warning on the PIMS that a prisoner has protection concerns regarding another (named) prisoner. A "flag" can be applied by the prison authorities to record that two or more prisoners cannot be housed at the same location (because of "security" concerns or due to the prisoners concerned being involved in a fight) or at a prisoner's request. Sometimes used by prisoners as a way of "pulling a handbrake" to avoid being transferred to another prison. The prisoner named can be an old enemy, someone well-known (who doesn't necessarily know the prisoner "flagging" him), or even a friend (who can accede to the removal of the "flag" once it's no longer needed). See "flagging". One method is for a prisoner to loudly abuse another prisoner from a safe distance, but within the earshot of prison officers, in the hope that it will be recorded that

the other prisoner is an enemy and that they cannot be housed together (Often used as a way of preventing being moved from one unit to another within a prison). See "long distance protection form".

Flagging: 1. *vb* To "flag" another prisoner.

Flogging: 1. To be badly assaulted, usually by prison officers. Example; "He copped a flogging off the screws when he went down the Slot."

Flood-up: 1. *vb* To flood a cell as a form of protest. Modern cell doors have a gap at the bottom of the door to make this more difficult.

Flush: 1. *vb* To flush out one's digestive system with copious amounts of water in order to flush out the remnants of illicit drugs or diverted medication prior to providing a urine sample.

FOI: 1. *acronym* Freedom of Information. A reference to the *FOI Act 1982* (Vic) or to a request made pursuant to that Act.

Footprints: 1. *n* Derisive nickname for veal or chicken schnitzels.

Four-by-two: 1. *rhyming slang* Screw.

464'd: 1. An application by Victoria Police to have a prisoner transferred into their custody for the purposes of questioning or to have a forensic sample taken. So-called because such applications are made to a magistrate pursuant to section 464 of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic).

French Island: 1. Contraction of 'HMP French Island', the former (1916-1975) minimum security prison farm located on French Island in Western Port Bay, to the east of Melbourne. Also known as the McLeod Prison Farm. 2. (*Australian Place Names*) named Île de Français by the French Captain Baudin when he camped there in 1802 while on his scientific expedition around the coast of Australia.

Fulham: 1. Contraction of 'Fulham Correctional Centre', a privately operated (by GEO) medium security prison located at West Sale, 220 kilometres east of Melbourne, in eastern Victoria.

G

Games, playing: 1. A reference by prisoners to prison officers intentionally making life difficult by being obstinate, intentionally slow or by changing/inventing rules.

Gangster: 1. *n* Derisive term for a prisoner who acts tough, like a typical Hollywood gangster. See "plastic gangster".

Gate up: 1. A (usually shouted) command by a prisoner for a prison officer to open a locked gate.

Gave birth to a governor: 1. Took a shit!

GDH: 1. *acronym* Governor's Disciplinary Hearing. An internal disciplinary hearing. The previous name for a General Manager's Disciplinary Hearing. See "GMDH".

G Division: 1. *n* The psychiatric division in HMP Pentridge/HM Metropolitan Reception Prison. Opened as an industrial reformation school in the 1870s, the division was used to hold female prisoners during 1890-1956 & then as a psychiatric division for male prisoners

during 1956-1987 & 1990-1997. During 1987-1988 the division was used as the Victorian prison system's first Drug Treatment Unit & during 1988-1990 as a Female Management Unit.

Gear: 1. *n* Drugs, especially heroin. Example; "Have you got any gear?"

Geelong: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Geelong', formerly (1854-1942 & 1947-1991) a medium security prison located at Geelong, on the western side of Port Phillip Bay. 2. (*Australian Place Names*) **Geelong** is the largest provincial city in Victoria. It was named in 1837 by Governor [Sir Richard] Bourke using an Aboriginal name for the district, *Jillong*. Various meanings have been given. They include 'place of the cliff' or 'white seabird'.

Gee up: 1. To intentionally provoke another prisoner. Example; "They geed him up to attack the screws." 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **gee³ phrase gee someone up**, to practice a deception on someone; to hoodwink someone. [from *gee* a conman's assistant]

Get out: 1. Get released. Example; "When does he get out?"

Get over: 1. To overwhelm, "get over", someone in a fight.

Getting on the van: 1. *vb* Getting on a prison van for a transfer to another prison, the courts or to hospital. See "on the van" & "handbrake".

Gig: 1. *n* Someone who is inquisitive. Example; "Don't be a gig." 2. *vb* To have a look at something. Example; "Come and have a gig at this." 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **gig⁵** *Colloquial noun* 1. to watch; stare. – *noun* 3. a stickybeak.

Give-up: 1. *vb* To implicate someone in a crime. 2. *n* Someone who "gives up" another prisoner, implicates him, particularly a co-offender.

GMDH: 1. *acronym* General Manager's Disciplinary Hearing. The modern name for a Governor's Disciplinary Hearing. Both acronyms are routinely used interchangeably in the Victorian prison system. See "GDH".

Good go: 1. To make a good attempt at doing something. Example; "He gave it a good go." See "strong go".

Goose: 1. *n* A fool.

Go Slow: 1. *n* A punishment unit. So-called because time in a punishment unit is said to go slow. Synonymous with "The Slot". See "pokey" & "Slot, the".

Got got: 1. To be assaulted or stabbed. Example; "He got got as soon as he arrived in the unit."

Got off the van yesterday: 1. Saying of annoyance at being treated as a fool. Example; "Do you think I'm a goose who got off the van yesterday?"

Go on with it: 1. To fight. Example; "If you provoke him, he'll go on with it."

Go right off: 1. To get extremely angry, especially as a form of protest. Example; "Everybody go right off!"

Gov: 1. Contraction of 'governor'.

Governor: 1. *n* The former name for the senior prison officer in charge of a prison or a division within a prison. Now known as "General Manager" & various forms of "Manager" (e.g. Operations Manager). Previously prison Governors were graded into

three grades (Grade 1, 2 & 3). A Governor Grade 3 was in charge of a large prison, whose deputy was a Governor Grade 2. A Grade 1 Governor was in charge of a division within a prison. Smaller prisons were overseen by a Governor Grade 2.

Governor's Court: 1. *n* The former name for a Governor's Disciplinary Hearing.

Governor's Disciplinary Hearing: 1. The new name for a Governor's Court, now known as a General Manager's Disciplinary Hearing. An internal prison disciplinary hearing where a prison manager hears charges relating to prison offences. Punishments awarded at such hearings include a reprimand, a fine of up to \$120 (Note that the average weekly prison wage is around \$26), or the loss of one or more privileges for a maximum of 14 days per charge & up to 30 days in total. (see *Henderson v Beltracchi* (1999) 105 ACrimR 578, *Stewart v Crowley* [2003] 6 VR 479, *Knight v Minister for Corrections* (2003) 145 ACrimR 1 & *Henderson v Read* [2006] VSC 304) See "GMDH". Full loss of privileges amounts to solitary confinement in a bare punishment cell. See "LOPs".

Governor's Pleasure: 1. Prisoners previously found unfit to plead or not guilty by reason of insanity were detained until released by executive action; i.e. by order of the Governor of Victoria on the recommendation of the State Government. The term comes from the expression that the prisoner was to be detained "until the Governor's pleasure be known." 2. (*Butterworths Australian Legal Dictionary*) A form of custody ordered by a court following a verdict by a jury that the accused was not guilty of the offence charged on the grounds of mental illness. The full order was that the accused be held in custody until the Governor's pleasure (or her Majesty's pleasure) be known.

GP: 1. *acronym* Governor's Pleasure.

Greens: 1. Prison-issue uniform, so-called because of their dark green colour.

H

Half a brick: 1. A sentence of 5 years imprisonment. See "brick".

Handbrake, pull a: 1. *vb* To invent a reason to stop being "put on the van" & transferred to another prison. Encompasses every stunt from feigning a heart attack to "flagging" a prisoner at the prison where the prisoner pulling the handbrake is being sent. See "flag".

Hands on traps: 1. The command given by a prison officer to announce the start of a trap muster, usually before let-out in the morning. So-called because the prisoner is expected to place one of his/her hands on the dropped trapdoor in the cell door. See "trap muster".

H Division: 1. *n* The former (1958-1994) H Division in HMP Pentridge. An infamous punishment division known for its "reception bash". The subject of an official inquiry in 1973 (see "Jenkinson Inquiry") & other investigations (see *Re Lapidos & OOC (No 4)* (1990) 4 VAR 283). The location depicted in the films "Everynight... Everynight" (1994) & "Chopper" (2000) & the subject of a book by former prisoner Doug Robinson, 'Hell Division' (2005). Also the subject of an e-book by playwright & former prisoner Ray Mooney, 'The Ethics of Evil: Stories of H Division' (2016). Photographs of the division's labour, industry & shower yards appear in Rupert Mann (ed), 'Pentridge: Voices From the Other Side'. Known during its operation as "The Bash Factory" & "Hell Division".

Heart: 1. *adj* Courage. Example; "He's got a lot of heart."

Heavy: 1. *n* A prisoner with a reputation for violence, who has a serious criminal record or with strong criminal connections.

Hectic: 1. Out of control with respect to a division or unit. Example; "It's hectic in the back units."

High Security: 1. *n* The highest security rating for prisons & prisoners in Victoria, above Maximum Security (Corrections Victoria obviously don't know the meaning of 'maximum'!)

HM: 1. *acronym* Her/His Majesty's; as in Her Majesty's Prison.

HMP: 1. *acronym* Her Majesty's Prison. Prisons in Victoria are now named "correctional centre" & the prefix HMP is no longer used.

Hollow log: 1. *rhyming slang* A dog. See "dog".

Home brew: 1. *n* A homemade alcoholic brew.

I

IDU: 1. *acronym* Identified Drug User. A title introduced into the Victorian prison system in 1992 as part of the Victorian Prison Drug Strategy. A prisoner who returns a "dirty urine" is labelled as an IDU & is subjected to various sanctions (e.g. loss of contact visit privileges). See "urine test".

If you cop that, you'll cop a cock: 1. An abusive saying indicating that the prisoner concerned won't stand up for himself. In other words, the prisoner concerned is so submissive that he would allow himself to be sexually assaulted.

Immies: 1. Contraction of 'Immovane' tablets. An anti-depressant.

IMP File: 1. *acronym* Individual Management Plan File. A replacement in 1993, as part of the Unit Management prison management philosophy, for the various prison files that were opened on each prisoner. See "Unit Management".

IMU: 1. *acronym* Integrated Management Unit. A short-lived experiment in H Division during 1987-1988, whereby prisoners placed in the unit on a long-term basis were to be given greater privileges. (see *Knight v Department of Justice* (1995) 8 VAR 460)

Intel: 1. *n* Contraction of 'intelligence'. Information gathered by the prison authorities via intercepted prisoners mail & telephone calls, overheard conversations, "notes" and information provided by prison staff & prisoners, & other sources (e.g. Victoria Police). 2. *n* The intelligence unit within a prison consisting of the Collator & other prison intelligence staff. See "Collator" & "Protel".

J

Jack & Jills: 1. *rhyming slang* Pills.

Jack(s): 1. The police. 2. Police officers. Example; "As soon as the Jacks turned up I did a runner." 3. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 17. *Colloquial* a police officer.

Jazzed: 1. To be assaulted. Example; "He got jazzed out in the yard."

Jazz up: 1. *vb* To clean or spruce up one's cell. Example; "Are you going to jazz up your cell?"

J Division: 1. One of the main divisions in HMP Pentridge. It was built in the 1960s as 6 x 2-bed dormitories for young offenders. See "YOG". In the 1970s the division was converted into single cell accommodation for 35 adult prisoners & in the 1980s a second storey was added by converting the lower floor of the division into cell accommodation. Considered to be the best division in HMP Pentridge due to its motel-like accommodation not seen before or since in the Victorian prison system.

Jenkinson Inquiry: 1. The Board of Inquiry conducted by Kenneth Jenkinson QC into "Allegations of Brutality and Ill-Treatment at HM Prison Pentridge" (H Division). The inquiry led to the abolishment of such practices as rock-breaking in H Division but not to other practices, such as the "reception bash". See Kenneth Jenkinson QC, *Report of the Board of Inquiry into Allegations of Brutality and Ill-Treatment at HM Prison Pentridge*, Victorian Government Printer, Melbourne, 1973.

Jika: 1. *n* The former (1980-1987 & 1988-1997) K Division in the MRP; originally named & officially opened as "Jika Jika" but almost immediately re-named K Division after protests by local Aboriginal groups. Scene of a protest fire on 29 October 1987 in which 5 prisoners died (see *Harmsworth v The State Coroner* [1989] VR 989, *Re Lapidos and Ombudsman* (1987) 2 VAR 82 & 148, & Dr Bree Carlton, *Imprisoning Resistance: Life and death in an Australian Supermax*, Sydney Institute of Criminology Press, Sydney, 2007). Extensively re-furnished after the 1987 fire except for Unit 2, which remained a High Security unit. The term "Jika" is only used to refer to the division in its pre-fire days.

JLTC: 1. *acronym* Judy Lazarus Transition Centre. A 25-bed transition facility for male prisoners at the end of their sentence (i.e. last 12 months). Located in West Melbourne next to the MAP, it was opened in 2007 & is designed to prepare selected prisoners for release & reintegration into the community. Named after Judy Lazarus, the Secretary of VACRO during 1987-2005.

Junior: 1. *n* A junior barrister; the junior of the two grades of barrister. See "QC".

J Ward: 1. J Ward of the Aradale Psychiatric Hospital located at Ararat in western Victoria. A notorious ward for the criminally insane during 1886-1991. It was originally (1861-1885) HMP Ararat, a 72-bed medium security prison. Used briefly as a prison in 2001. See "Mont Park".

K

Kareenga: 1. *n* Contraction of 'Kareenga Correctional Centre', a medium security "protection" prison located at Lara, 70 kilometres south-west of Melbourne between Melbourne & Geelong. Opened in 2017.

K Division: 1. *n* The official name of the Jika Jika division in the MRP, especially after it was re-opened following the 1987 fire. See "Jika". The division consisted of a 6-cell unit (Unit 2) & four 12-cell units (Units 3-6). During 1988-1993 a female Drug Treatment Unit was located in Unit 3 of the division & during 1988-1997 a male Drug Treatment Unit was located in Unit 4 of the division. In 1990, an Office of Intellectual Disability Services (OIDS) Unit was established in Unit 6 of the division to house intellectually disabled prisoners.

Keep knit: 1. To keep a look out.

Kick: 1. To produce drugs. Example; "Did she kick after the visit?"

Kicks: 1. *n* Sneakers.

Kiddy fucker: 1. *n* A child molester. See "rock spider" & "tamperer".

Knock: 1. A murder. Example; "He's in on a knock."

L

Labour yards: 1. The small, totally enclosed yards in H Division where prisoners previously (1958-1975) broke up large bluestone blocks as a punishment. Later (1975-1994) used as exercise yards. See "H Division".

Lag: 1. *vb* To inform on. Example; "I got lagged over that armed rob."

Lagger: 1. *n* Someone who informs.

Langi: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Langi Kal Kal', a minimum security "open camp" prison located at Trawalla near Beaufort, 140 kilometres west of Melbourne, in central western Victoria. First settled as a farm in 1838, a substantial farmhouse was built on the property around 1900. After the Second World War the property was subdivided & the central portion including the farmhouse was used as a prison (1950-1965) & then as a YTC (1965-1993). It re-opened as a protection prison in June 1993. During October 1995, the last of the protection prisoners previously accommodated at HMP Sale were transferred to Langi Kal Kal. The name 'Langi Kal Kal' is an Aboriginal term meaning "home of the singing cicadas".

Laps: 1. *vb* To walk laps of an exercise yard. See "cut laps".

Lash: 1. *n* To not pay one's debt(s).

Leaves: 1. Temporary leaves of absence from a prison pursuant to a leave permit. Example; "Have you started your leaves yet?" A system of temporary leaves has operated in various guises in Victoria since 1973. See "temporary leave".

Left-hand drop: 1. *vb* To intentionally, recklessly or negligently get another prisoner into trouble or alert the prison staff to something untoward happening but to appear to do so unintentionally. Example; "Did he lag on him or was it a left-hand drop?"

Leg it: 1. To run away. Example; "The alarm went off so we legged it." 2. Also a command for someone to go away. Example; "You're starting to annoy me so why don't you leg it."

Let-out: 1. The opening of cell doors, usually in the morning after the morning trap count, whereby prisoners are "let out" of their cells. See "trap count".

Life: 1. *n* A life sentence. Someone convicted of murder in Victoria can either be sentenced to life imprisonment with no minimum term or to life imprisonment with a minimum non-parole term (or to a set number of years "on the top" & "on the bottom"). The expression "25 years to life" is an Americanism that is not used by Victorian prisoners. A myth also persists in Victorian prisons that a life sentence means 25 years. The confusion arises from a brief period in New South Wales in the 1970s whereby persons convicted of murder could be sentenced to *either* life imprisonment *or* 25 years. A sentence of life imprisonment in Victoria means exactly that. The first 'whole-of-life' sentence in Victoria was handed down in 1988 & that prisoner died in prison in 2016.

Lifer: 1. *n* A prisoner serving a sentence of life imprisonment.

Lifted: 1. *vb* To be removed from a prison, division or unit for security or punishment reasons. See "tipped".

Lobster(s): 1. *n* Derogatory name for prison officers. So-called because lobsters have "meat in the arse and shit in the head."

Lock-down: 1. For a prisoner to be locked in his or her cell. 2. When a unit or whole prison is "locked-down" (i.e. all prisoners are locked in their cells) for security reasons or due to industrial action by prison officers.

Lock-up: 1. The closing & locking of cell doors, usually in the afternoon or evening, whereby prisoners are "locked up" in their cells for the night. 2. *n* A police watch-house.

Loddon: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Loddon', a medium security campus-style prison located near Castlemaine, 128 kilometres north-west of Melbourne, in central Victoria. Construction of the prison commenced in February 1988 at a cost of \$29 million & it was opened in August 1990.

Long Bay: 1. Contraction of 'Long Bay Prison', the maximum security prison located in Sydney, New South Wales. See "Bay, the". 2. (*Australian Place Names*) a locality in the Municipality of Randwick, was named by Governor [Arthur] Phillip [the first Governor of New South Wales]. The prison there opened in 1900 although construction commenced in 1898.

Long distance protection form: 1. The yelling of abuse at another prisoner from safety in front of prison officer in the hope that they will record who is being yelled at and "flag" that prisoner from the prisoner doing the yelling.

LOPs: 1. *acronym* Loss Of Privileges. One of the punishments that can be awarded at a Governor's Court/Governor's Disciplinary Hearing, involving the removal of one or all privileges for a set period. A governor can award up to 14 days LOPs for each prison offence, but no more than 30 days LOPs *in toto* for more than two offences. Full LOPs is a euphemism for solitary confinement in a bare punishment cell.

Lot, the: 1. *n* A Life sentence, Example; "He went down on that murder & copped the lot."

Low CRN: 1. *n* A prisoner who has been in the prison system for a long time or who has been coming to prison for a long time. So-called because the first CRNs were issued in the mid-1980s beginning with '1'. A 5-digit CRN would thus indicate that the prisoner first entered the criminal justice system before 1994.

Low Dog Prison: 1. *n* Derisive nickname for HMP Loddon.

Lowie: 1. *n* A derisive term for someone who will do anything for drugs.

M

Maggot Creek: 1. *n* Derisive nickname for the Marngoneet Correctional Centre.

Main, the: 1. The mainstream prison population. Example; "Is he back in the Main?"

Mainstream: 1. The mainstream prison population (as opposed to "protection").

Management: 1. A euphemism for 'punishment' & generally used in the title of High Security "management" units.

MAP: 1. *acronym* Melbourne Assessment Prison. The current name for the prison known previously (1989-1997) as the Melbourne Remand Centre. The initial reception & assessment prison for men in Victoria.

Marngoneet: 1. Contraction of 'Marngoneet Correctional Centre', a medium security prison located close to HMP Barwon near Lara, 70 kilometres south-west of Melbourne between Melbourne & Geelong. Opened in March 2006 as a prison with a focus on rehabilitation programs. The name "Marngoneet" is taken from the local Wathaurong community language & means "to make new".

Meds: 1. Contraction of 'medications'. The collective name for the prescription drugs that are issued three-times-a-day from a "med trolley".

Med trolley: 1. *n* The trolley operated by a pharmacy technician and containing the daily medications issued to prisoners. Its arrival in a unit is often met with a cry of "drugs up!" or "meds up!"

Melbourne Gaol: 1. The former (1845-1926) 200-bed maximum security gaol in Russell Street, Melbourne. The first substantial prison built in Victoria (then the Port Phillip District). The site of 135 of Victoria's 186 executions during 1836-1967, including the hanging of the notorious bushranger Ned Kelly on 11 November 1880. Today a museum & referred to as the "Old Melbourne Gaol". 2. (*Australian Place Names*) **Melbourne** was originally known as Dutigalla or Bearbrass. Sir Richard Bourke, Governor of New South Wales, selected it as the administrative centre of the [Port Phillip District] in 1837. He renamed it Melbourne after Lord Melbourne, who was then Prime Minister of England.

Methadone: 1. *n* An opiate substitute. Known by prisoners as "liquid handcuffs" when on parole because of the daily dosage of Methadone taking place at the same location & at the same time everyday. See "OSTP".

Midnight Express visit: 1. A non-contact "box" visit where a female visitor exposes herself. A reference to the scene in the movie "Midnight Express" (1978) where Billy Hayes' girlfriend exposes her breasts during a visit.

Minimum: 1. A prisoner's minimum non-parole term. Example; "He got a minimum of 25 years." See "minimum term" & "on the bottom".

Minimum term: 1. A prisoner's minimum non-parole term. See "on the bottom".

Minister, the: 1. Contraction of 'Minister for Corrections'. A ministerial position originally created as the Minister for Social Welfare in 1971. Re-named the Minister for Community Welfare Services in 1979 & then the Minister for Corrections in 1983.

Mississippi: 1. *rhyming slang* Dippy. Silly, intellectually disabled or of low intelligence.

Mobile: 1. Contraction of 'mobile telephone'. Mobile telephones are banned in all prisons.

Monkey suit: 1. *n* Long sleeved overalls that have a rear zipper that prisoners have to wear on a contact visit. Only prisoners in maximum security prisons are required to wear them. Although the introduction of contact visit overalls in 1990 was said to be an anti-drug smuggling measure, they actually make drug smuggling easier. The real reason for the introduction of the overalls was to stop prisoners in maximum security prisons having sex with their visitors on contact visits. Prisoners in medium & minimum security prisons

do not have to wear them because medium security prisons have residential (conjugal) visits & minimum security prisons have temporary leave programs. See "residential visits" & "temporary leave".

Monthly Spend: 1. *n* Prisoners in Victoria (pre-1988) were permitted to spend up to \$30 of their own (private) money on a special monthly canteen spend. Items that weren't available on the (very limited) weekly canteen spend (e.g. soft drink cans, filtered cigarettes, confectionary) were available on the monthly spend. The inefficiency of the system led to the items on the monthly spend list being added to the weekly canteen list.

Mont Park: 1. A psychiatric hospital located in Royal Park in northern Melbourne. Closed in 2000 & replaced by the Thomas Embling Forensic Hospital at Fairfield in inner-city Melbourne. See "Thomas Embling Forensic Hospital".

MOR: 1. *acronym* Minor Offences Register. See "Black Book".

Morwell River: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Morwell River', the previous (1961-1997) minimum security "open camp" prison located on the Morwell River Road at Boolara, 190 kilometres south-east of Melbourne in the Gippsland region of Victoria. Considered during its operation to be the premier prison location in Victoria. 2. (*Australian Place Names*) **Morwell** a large town in central Gippsland, was named by C.J. Tyers, Lands Commissioner of Gippsland in 1884 & is thought to have been derived from the town of Morwellham & a former Morwell Abbey in Devon, England.

MOU: 1. *acronym* Major Offenders Unit. A sentence management unit created within Corrections Victoria in 2005 that oversees (micro-manages) the small number of prisoners designated as "Major Offenders" (i.e. Life sentence prisoners, prisoners with a high profile, terrorists).

MRC: 1. *acronym* Melbourne Remand Centre. Original name for the MAP. Constructed between 1983-1989 at a cost of \$80 million. 2. *acronym* Metropolitan Remand Centre. The maximum security remand centre for men opened in May 2006 at Truganina on the western outskirts of Melbourne. The scene of Victoria's worst prison riot during 30 June - 1 July 2015. The riot was caused by the introduction of a smoking ban in Victorian prisons, and resulted in around \$10 million damage to the prison. See "smoking ban".

MRP: 1. *acronym* Metropolitan Reception Prison. The former Southern sub-prison of HMP Pentridge created in March 1984 when Pentridge was divided into two separate prisons.

Muster: 1. A head-count of prisoners. Musters were traditionally conducted outside with prisoners arranged in their work groups, like the head-counts in World War II POW camps, but are now conducted inside with each prisoner standing by his/her cell door. Synonymous with "count". See "trap muster". 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 7. *Australian History* a. the regular assembling of convicts to check that none are missing.

MWCC: 1. *acronym* Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre. The original name of the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. Opened as a privately operated prison in August 1996; the first private prison in Victoria. Taken over by Corrections Victoria in 2000 and renamed the DPFC in 2001. See "DPFC".

Neck yourself: 1. Hang yourself. A derisive comment usually yelled at a prisoner who is continuously "banging up", making noise & complaining.

Necked: 1. Hanged. Example; "He necked himself last night."

Nick, the: 1. *n* Prison.

No appearance, Your Worship: The traditional statement by a police prosecutor in a magistrate's court when an accused person on bail has "failed to appear", thus resulting in the magistrate issuing a bench warrant of arrest.

No good: 1. *adj* Untrustworthy; a suspected informer. Example; "I wouldn't trust that bloke because I reckon he's no good."

Non-compliance: 1. Non-compliance with a condition of parole which usually results in the parolee being returned to custody. Example; "He didn't turn up to three appointments with the Board so they breached him for non-compliance." See "breached".

Non-tubber: 1. *n* A prisoner who does not shower. See "tub, have a".

Not everyone in the Bone Yard is a dog; not all the dogs are in the Bone Yard: 1. *saying* A prison variation of the saying "Don't trust anybody!" Also an indication that not every prisoner is on protection because he/she is an informer or a child molester.

Nuffie: 1. *n* A mentally disorder or intellectually disabled prisoner. Synonymous with "wozzle".

Nuts & bolts: 1. Derisive name for the prison industry whereby prisoners assemble and pack nuts, bolts and screws for the Ramset® company. Considered to be the most menial of all prison jobs.

O

Obs: 1. Contraction of 'observation', as in observation cell. See "obso cell".

Obso cell: 1. *n* Contraction of 'observation cell'. A cell stripped of all furniture and fittings used for the observation of prisoners considered to be at risk of suicide or self-harm.

OCSC: 1. *acronym* Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner. A unit that existed at the pinnacle of the Corrections Victoria hierarchy during 1995-2003.

OCSR: 1. *acronym* Office of Correctional Services Review. A unit of the Department of Justice that is supposedly independent of Corrections Victoria that oversees & investigates the operation of correctional services in Victoria. Established 13 August 2007 from an amalgamation of the Corrections Inspectorate (2003-2007) & the Performance Review & Development Unit of Corrections Victoria.

Ode'e: 1. Contraction of *eau d'colonge* - rhyming slang for telephone.

Old Melbourne Gaol: 1. The former (1845-1926) 200-bed maximum security gaol in Russell Street, Melbourne. See "Melbourne Gaol".

On the bottom: 1. A prisoner's minimum non-parole term. Example; "He copped Life on top with 20 years on the bottom." See "minimum term".

On the coat: 1. To be given the 'silent treatment'. A prisoner who is "put on the coat" is not spoken to by other prisoners because he or she is considered *persona non grata* or

untrustworthy or has "put a hole in their manners". 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 6. **on the coat** *Colloquial* ostracised.

On the top: 1. A prisoner's maximum term. Example; "She got 10 years with 15 years on the top."

On the van: 1. *vb* Being placed on a prison van for transfer to another prison, to court or to hospital. Example; "Am I on the van today?"

One-out: 1. A single occupancy cell. See "three-out" & "two-out".

OOC: 1. *n* Office of Corrections. The title of the Victorian prisons authority during 1983-1992. Re-named the Correctional Services Division of the Department of Justice in 1992 & then Corrections Victoria in 1995.

Open camp: 1. *n* A minimum security prison located in the countryside. There are four "open camps" in Victoria: at Beechworth, Dhurringile, Langi Kal Kal & Tarrengower. Synonymous with "farm".

OSTP: 1. Opiate Substitution Therapy Program. The regulated provision of Methadone or Buprenorphine as a heroin substitute. A program of issuing Methadone (& latterly Buprenorphine) to drug-addicted prisoners has existed in Victoria's prisons since the late 1980s.

Ox: 1. Contraction of 'White Ox' tobacco, the main tobacco brand smoked by prisoners in Victoria prior to the introduction of the total smoking ban on 1 July 2015. Sold in 30g and 50g pouches on the weekly canteen. See "50 grammer" & "30 grammer".

P

Pacing: 1. *vb* Pacing up and down an exercise yard or in a cell. Example; "I could hear him pacing all night."

PADD dog: 1. Passive Alert Drug Detector dog, a prison 'sniffer' dog.

Pat: See "Pat Malone".

Pat Malone: 1. *rhyming slang* To be on one's own.

Pattable: 1. Said of a prison officer who is approachable and likely to approve a request. Example; "Don't ask that screw, he's a prick. Ask the other screw, he's pattable."

Pentridge: 1. The former (1850-1997) HM Prison Pentridge located at Coburg (which was previously known as Pentridge) in northern Melbourne. One of the most famous (infamous) prisons in Australia. The prison developed from a wooden stockade built in December 1850. Originally one prison, then divided into Northern, Central & Southern sub-prisons, then two prisons - HM Prison Pentridge (the former Northern & Central sub-prisons) & HM Metropolitan Reception Prison (the former Southern sub-prison). Following the March 1984 division of Pentridge into Pentridge (A, B, E, H & J Division, B Annexe & Pentridge Hospital) & the MRP (D, G & K Division), remand prisoners were held in the MRP & sentenced prisoners were held in Pentridge. Despite the fact that Pentridge & the MRP operated as separate prisons, prisoners who spent time on remand in D Division, MRP, still refer to serving time "in Pentridge". 2. (*Australian Place Names*) **Pentridge** is a locality in the City of Coburg in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Pentridge was named after Thomas Pentridge, an Irish settler, who had his home by Merri Creek in

the early days of the district. Pentridge Stockade (later Pentridge Jail) was established in 1851.

Petrol: 1. Nickname for Methadone.

Peter: 1. *n* A prison cell. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **peter**³ *noun Colloquial* 2. A prison cell. – *phrase*. 3. **black peter**, a punishment cell devoid of light or furniture.

• **Peter thief:** 1. *n* A prisoner who steals from another prisoner, especially from the prisoner's cell but can also refer generally to any prisoner who steals from another.

Phone, the: 1. *n* A reference in the old bluestone prisons to using the cell toilet as a medium for conversing with a prisoner in an adjoining cell. It was possible to use the steel toilets & plumbing in the old bluestone prisons as a two-way "telephone" after pumping the water out of the S-bend with a toilet brush. Example; "Get on the phone after lock-up."

Phone number: 1. In Victoria between 1928 and the abolition of the death penalty in 1975, prisoners convicted of murder and sentenced to the mandatory death sentence almost always had their sentence commuted. The sentence of death was commuted to life imprisonment with or without remissions, to a set number of years, or to a maximum and minimum number of years. This last option usually entailed the setting of very high numbers (e.g. 50/40), hence the expression 'phone number'. Example; "They commuted his death sentence but he copped a 'phone number'."

PIMS: 1. *acronym* Prisoner Information Management System. A computerized information system created in the mid-1980s & operated by Corrections Victoria.

Pinch: 1. *n* A charge either by police or by the prison authorities. 2. *vb* To steal.

Pinched: 1. *vb* To get arrested or charged. Example; "I got pinched over that armed rob."

Pinkie: 1 *n* A prison charge sheet ('*Notification of Charge of Prison Offence*'). So-called because the prisoner's copy is printed on pink carbon paper.

Plastic gangster: 1. A derisive term for a prisoner who acts like a "gangster" but is of little substance.

Plug: 1. *n* A plug of tobacco.

PMU: 1. *acronym* Pentridge Management Unit. A "management" (punishment) unit located in B Division, HMP Pentridge, during 1992-1995.

Pokey: 1. A punishment division or unit. See "Go Slow" & "Slot, the". 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *noun Colloquial* a jail [from *pogie* warehouse; ult. origin uncert]

Port Phillip: 1. Contraction of 'Port Phillip Prison', a privately operated (by G4S Custodial Services) maximum security private prison located at Laverton North (now known as Truganina) on the western outskirts of Melbourne.

Port Putrid: 1. *n* Derisive nickname for Port Phillip Prison.

Posted, left: 1. To be left unassisted. Example; "As soon as the screws turned up he left me posted."

Pouch: 1. *n* A pouch of tobacco. See "30 grammer" & "50 grammer".

PPP: 1. acronym Port Phillip Prison. A maximum security private prison opened in September 1997 at Laverton North on the western outskirts of Melbourne. See "Port Phillip" & "Port Putrid".

Prisoners, terms for: "boob-head", "crim".

Prison officer, terms for: "four-by-two", guard, lobster, PO, "screw", "screwess", "turnkey", warder.

Prisons, terms for: "bluestone jail", "boob", gaol, jail, "pokey", prison. See also under individual prison names.

Prisons, Victorian: 1. The following prisons currently exist or previously existed in Victoria (*those prisons in Italics are those prisons that have closed or been re-named*):

- Ararat Gaol	1855-1861	
- HM Prison Ararat	1861-1885	(became J Ward)
- HM Prison Ararat	1967-2012	(renamed Hopkins CC)
- HM Prison Ballarat	1861-1967	
- HM Prison Barwon	1990-	
- HM Prison Beechworth	1860-1910	
	1927-2004	
- Beechworth Correctional Centre	2005-	
- HM Prison Bendigo	1863-1942	
	1947-2006	
- HM Prison Castlemaine	1861-1990	
- HM Prison Coorimungle	1940-1977	
- Dame Phyllis Frost Centre	2001-	(new name for MWCC)
- HM Prison Dhurringile	1965-	
- Fairlea Women's Prison	1956-1996	(replaced by the MWCC)
- HM Prison French Island	1916-1975	
- Fulham Correctional Centre	1997-	(private prison)
- HM Prison Geelong	1854-1942	
	1947-1991	
- Hopkins Correctional Centre	2012-	(new name for HMP Ararat)
- Kareenga Correctional Centre	2017-	
- Kilmore Gaol	1859-1873	(smallest gaol = 26 beds)
- HM Prison Langi Kal Kal	1950-1965	
	1993-	
- HM Prison Loddon	1990-	

- Marngoneet Correctional Centre	2006-	
- Maryborough Gaol	1861-1902	
- Melbourne Gaol	1845-1926	
- Melbourne Assessment Prison	1997-	(new name for MRC)
- Melbourne Remand Centre	1989-1997	(original name for MAP)
- HM Metropolitan Reception Prison	1984-1997	
- Metropolitan Remand Centre	2006-	
- Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre	1996-2001	(renamed DPFC)
- HM Prison Morwell River	1961-1997	
- HM Prison Muckleford	1922	
- HM Prison Pentridge	1850-1997	
- Portland Gaol	1842-1873	
- Port Phillip Prison	1997-	(private prison)
- Ravenhall Correctional Centre	2018-	(private prison)
- HM Prison Sale	1887-1997	
- HM Prison Sandhurst	1863	(old name for HMP Bendigo)
- HM Prison Tarrengower	1988-	
- HM Prison Wron	1963-2005	

Private money: 1. *n* A prisoner's own money; i.e. money sent into the prisoner from outside by a relative or friend, as opposed to prison wages.

Private prison: 1. *n* A prison operated by a private prison operator (e.g. G4S). See "Fulham", "PPP" & "Ravenhall".

Professional bail: 1. *vb* To "bail" from a unit without doing so at one's own request & for a supposedly honourable reason (i.e. by assaulting a prison officer & being "slotted").

Programs: 1. Contraction of 'programs designed to address offending behaviour'. Rehabilitation programs usually directed towards self-improvement or violent, sexual or drug offending.

Prongs: 1. *n* The banning of smoking in Victorian prisons in 2015 also saw the banning of implements associated with smoking (i.e. lighters & matches). In order to light cigarettes or vaporize drugs, prisoners now use two strips of metal inserted into a power point combined with a teaspoon of liquid to create a spark to ignite toilet paper to create a flame. The strips of metal are referred to as "prongs".

Protection: 1. *n* To be segregated from the "mainstream" prison population for the prisoner's own protection. A prisoner can either be "placed/put on protection" by the prison authorities or at the prisoner's own request. Most commonly used for prisoners who are Crown witnesses or who have offended against children, but also used by mainstream prisoners as a way of avoiding paying drug debts. 2. *n* The area of a prison set aside for protection prisoners. Note that the expression 'protective custody' is an

Americanism that is not used by Victorian prisoners. See "bail", "long distance protection form" & "professional bail".

Protection form: 1. A form filled out by a prisoner who wishes to obtain protection; i.e. be segregated from the mainstream prison population.

PSD: 1. *acronym* Pre-Sentence Detention; i.e. time spent on remand.

Protel: 1. Contraction of 'Proactive Intelligence'; a form of "intel" involving the surreptitious collection of intelligence by the prison authorities (e.g. intercepted mail or telephone calls, confidential reports by prison officers).

Prowies: 1. Contraction of 'Prolodone' tablets. A pain killer.

Psych: 1. Contraction of 'psychiatrist'.

Psych nurse: 1. Contraction of 'psychiatric nurse'.

PT'd: 1. Peter thieved. See "peter thief".

PTU: 1. *acronym* Psycho-Sexual Therapy Unit. A unit for the treatment of sex offenders, it was originally located in the previous D Division dormitories in HM Metropolitan Reception Prison in 1991 but was re-located to HMP Ararat in 1996.

Pull-up: 1. To stop or desist from saying or doing something. Example; "Why don't you pull-up before you put a hole in your manners."

Put a hole in their manners: 1. To commit a *faux pas*, insult someone or do something considered to be the wrong thing.

Put it on: 1. To ask someone to do something (usually offensive). Example; "He put it on him for a suck."

Put on show: 1. To embarrass someone publically. Example; "By talking about his crimes in front of everybody you put him on show."

Put on the...: 1. To have something happen to someone. Example; "He got put on the coat."

Q

QC: 1. *n* Queen's Counsel. A senior barrister who has been appointed by the Attorney-General as a QC. The senior of the two grades of barrister. Known as 'KC' (King's Counsel) when the reigning monarch is a man. Synonymous with 'SC' (Senior Counsel). See "junior".

R

R & A: 1. *acronym* Review & Assessment (Committee). The lowest form of prisoner classification & placement. Usually conducted by local uniformed prison staff. Review & Assessment Committee hearings are held on most prisoners on a quarterly basis to monitor their progress.

Ramp: 1. *vb* To search. Example; "The screws are going to ramp this place in a minute." 2. *n* A search conducted by prison officers. Example; "We got ramped last night after lock-up."

Ramped: 1. The process of a search conducted by prison officers. See "ramp".

Random urine: 1. A urinalysis supposedly conducted on a prisoner chosen at random.

Ranks, Prison Officers: 1. The following rank structure applied prior to the introduction of "management speak" titles:

- Governor Grade 3
- Governor Grade 2
- Governor Grade 1
- Principal Prison Officer
- Chief Prison Officer
- Senior Prison Officer
- Prison Officer

2. The current rank structure now consists of:

- General Manager
- Deputy General Manager (*not in all prisons*)
- Manager (*with various titles; e.g. Operations Manager*)
- Supervisor
- Senior Prison Officer (*absent in the three private prisons in Victoria*)
- Prison Officer (*known as Correctional Officer in the two private prisons*)

Rat: 1. *n* A despicable person.

Ravenhall Correctional Centre: 1. Contraction of 'Ravenhall Correctional Centre', a privately operated (by GEO) medium security prison located at Truganina on the western outskirts of Melbourne. Opened in February 2018.

Reception bash: 1. The systematic bashing of prisoners upon reception into Pentridge Prison's H Division by prison officers. One of the allegations the subject of the Jenkinson Inquiry. The practice continued until 29 October 1987, when surviving prisoners from the K Division fire were transferred to H Division *en masse*. See "Jenkinson Inquiry".

Red light: 1. *vb* To draw attention to oneself or to others.

Remand: 1. To be held in custody on remand; remanded in custody. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 2. *Law* (of a court or magistrate) to send back (a prisoner or accused person) into custody, as to await further proceedings.

Remissions: 1. The system whereby prisoners had days deducted monthly from their sentence for good behaviour. Up to a third of a prisoner's sentence could be reduced by way of remissions, but a third of the prisoner's sentence was added at the time of sentence. A prisoner who today under "truth in sentencing" principles would be sentenced to 4 years, would have previously been sentenced to 6 years. In other words, the actual time a prisoner would spend in custody is the same. A drawback of remissions was that they could be lost as a punishment at a Governor's Court. A right of appeal to the Magistrates Court against the loss of remissions only existed if a prisoner lost 8 days of remissions or more. Remissions could also be lost if a prisoner had too many entries in the Minor Offences Register during a calendar month. Remissions were abolished in Victoria on 22

April 1992, and have now been abolished in all Australian jurisdictions. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 4. *Law* a reduction of the term of a prison sentence, as for good behaviour.

Residential visit: 1. *n* A conjugal visit. The residential visit program only operates in Victoria's medium security prisons (Corrections Victoria do not use the word 'conjugal' in any of its departmental documents regarding the residential visit program).

Returned soldier: 1. *n* A prisoner in the mainstream prison population who has previously spent time in protection.

Risdon. 1. Contraction of 'Risdon Prison', the maximum security prison located near Hobart, Tasmania. 2. (*Australian Place Names*) was named by Captain John Hayes in February 1792, probably after the second officer on his ship, the *Duke of Clarence*.

Roadworthy: 1. *n* To be taken aside for a urine test or strip search. Example; "I was going to work when I got pulled over for a roadworthy."

Robber's Rule Book: 1. *n* An imaginary book containing the rules of conduct for criminals. Often referred to derisively when someone complains of unconscionable behaviour. Example; "Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realize that jumping on that rort was against the rules. I'll be sure to consult the 'Robber's Rule Book' next time!"

Rock spider: 1. *n* A child molester. (Note that this term is rarely used by Victorian prisoners). 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *noun Colloquial* a child molester.

Rollie: 1. *n* A hand-rolled cigarette (as opposed to "tailors"); a roll-your-own cigarette.

Room: 1. *n* It has become commonplace for prison cells to be referred to by prisoners and prison officers alike as "rooms". Section 31A of the *Corrections Act 1986* (Vic) even refers to a 'room' in a prison. Motels have 'rooms'; prisons have 'cells'!

ROPE Squad: 1. Recidivist Offenders Parole Enforcement Squad. A specialist squad of the Victoria Police established in 2008 to arrest parolees who had breached the terms of their parole. The relevant warrants of apprehension are issued by the Adult Parole Board.

Rort: 1. *n* An advantage obtained by underhand or devious means. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 4. to take wrongful advantage of; abuse: *to rort the system*.

Rorted: 1. *vb* To obtain by rorting. Example; "He rorted an extra pillow for himself." See "rort".

Rort bomber: 1. *n* A prisoner who succeeds in stopping a "rort" intentionally, recklessly or negligently by complaining about the "rort" or by drawing attention to it ("red lighting" it).

Roscoe: 1. *n* A handgun. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *noun Prison Colloquial* a gun [? from the name *Roscoe*]

Rowies: 1. *n* Contraction of 'Rohyptanol' tablets.

Run in on: 1. To launch a surprise attack on a prisoner in his cell. Example; "The screws ran in on him."

Runner: 1. *vb* To run away from a crime scene. Example; "I did a runner as soon as I heard the alarm go off." 2. *vb* To abscond on bail. Example; "He was supposed to front court this morning but he's done a runner."

S

St Augustine's: 1. The St Augustine's Ward at St Vincent's Hospital in Fitzroy in inner-city Melbourne. A ward exclusively for prisoners since 1980. 2. *n* The former St Augustine's Orphanage in Highton, Geelong.

Sale: 1. *n* Contraction of 'HMP Sale', formerly (1887-1997) a medium security prison located at Sale, in East Gippsland. The smallest prison in Victoria (60 beds) during its operation. Used as both a protection & a regional prison for the Gippsland region of Victoria. When protection prisoners were transferred to HMP Ararat in June 1993, Sale's security rating was downgraded from medium to minimum. 2. (*Australian Place Names*) Sale a city in East Gippsland. It was named after Sir Robert H. Sale, a distinguished British army officer, who was killed in the Afghan border wars in 1845.

Salt mines: 1. Derisive nickname for prison factories. Example; "I don't want to work down the salt mines but I need the money."

SASH: 1. *acronym* Suicide & Self-Harm. Example; "There's a SASH alert on that prisoner because he threatened to neck himself last night."

Scratch: 1. *n* A strip from the side of a matchbox.

Scrim: 1. *n* Contraction of "screw" & "crim" to refer to a prisoner who acts like a prison officer or who is considered to be too close to them.

Screw: 1. *n* A prison officer. See "four-by-two". 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 11. Colloquial a prison warder.

Screwess: 1. *n* A female prison officer.

Security: 1. A general term applied to a prison's security officers, or to the SESG or TOG. Example; "The word is we're going to get ramped by security after lock-up."

Security Rating: 1. The security rating (High, Maximum, Medium or Minimum) allocated to each prison and to each prisoner. The current Security Rating system was introduced in September 1989.

Sentence Management: 1. *n* The new name for classification. See "classification", "classo" & "SMU".

Servery: 1. *n* The small room in each division or unit where meals are dispensed from. Meals are delivered either pre-cooked & ready to serve on individual trays, or in metal trays that need to be re-heated in a re-heater oven in the servery.

SESG: 1. *n* Security & Emergency Services Group. Corrections Victoria's state-wide security unit including the State's Dog Squad. Corrections Victoria: 'The Security and Emergency Services Group (SESG) is a group of highly trained prison officers who perform a range of specialised security and emergency response services across all prison locations.'

Set-up: 1. To be entrapped or implicated unfairly. Example; "He got set-up."

Shackles: 1. Instruments of restraint imposed on prisoners rated as High Security when they are being transferred to & from court or hospital. Usually consisting of handcuffs attached to a leather body belt & ankle bracelets.

Shanghai(ed): 1. *n* The surprise transfer of a prisoner to a punishment division or unit or (usually) to another prison for disciplinary or security reasons. 2. *vb* To be subjected to a shanghai. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 4. *Prison Colloquial* to transfer without warning to another jail. 5. *Prison Colloquial* an unexpected transfer to another jail. [apparently short for 'to ship to SHANGHAI']

Shank: 1. US prison slang for a homemade weapon. Although an Americanism, it is slowly creeping into general usage in Victorian prisons. See "shiv".

Shit bomb: 1. *n* A container (usually a cardboard milk carton) filled with excrement. 2. *vb* To throw a "shit bomb" at someone or into a cell or to stomp on it at the base of a cell door so the contents spurt into the target cell.

Shit go: 1. An act considered to be contemptible. Example; "Standing over that nuffie for his canteen was a shit go."

Shit-kicker: 1. *n* A prisoner serving a short sentence. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 3. *Prison* a prisoner serving a short sentence.

Shitman: 1. *n* A term of abuse for a prisoner who only commits minor crimes, particularly low-level street crimes (e.g. bag-snatching).

Shit talker: 1. A prisoner who's word cannot be relied upon. A prisoner who tells lies, usually about his crimes, connections, possessions, etc.

Shiv: 1. *n* A homemade weapon; usually a stabbing implement. (Note that "shank" is an Americanism that is not generally used by Victorian prisoners). 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *noun British Colloquial* a knife [alteration of *shiv* blade, from Gipsy]

Show bag: 1. Previously a strike by prison officers that resulted in prisoners being locked down in their cells for more than 3 days resulted in each prisoner being given a "show bag" on the fourth and each successive day. The brown paper bag contained a can of soft drink, a chocolate bar & a packet of cigarettes.

Showers, the: 1. *n* The communal shower yards in bluestone prisons. Such showers were usually in open yards & contained no privacy screens. All cells in Victorian prisons (except those in "cottages") now have their own shower.

Show pouch: 1. *n* A near empty pouch of tobacco that could be displayed when another prisoner asked for a "plug" or a "snip" so that the prisoner could claim he could not spare any tobacco because he hardly had any left. Synonymous with "throw-off pouch".

Single, a: 1. *n* A "single cell". A cell occupied by only one prisoner. See "single cell", "three-outer" & "two-outer". Example; "Have you got a single yet or are you still in a two-outer?"

Single, cell: 1. *n* A cell occupied by only one prisoner. Synonymous with "one-out". See "single, a".

SITUPS: 1. *acronym* Structured Interview for Understanding Prisoner Safety. A diagnostic tool previously utilised to assess all prisoners by mental health staff as part of the initial reception process.

Skunk: 1. *n* A despicable person.

Slash-up: 1. *vb* To self-mutilate, particularly by using a razor blade to slash one's arms. Example; "He slashed-up last night so they put him in an obso cell."

Slot, the: 1. *n* A punishment unit. (Note that Corrections Victoria never refers to "punishment" units; only "management" or "High Security" units). See "Go Slow". 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 7. *Prison Colloquial* to lock up in a cell. – *verb*.

Slotted: 1. *vb* To get sent to "The Slot".

Smoking ban: 1. A ban on smoking and all tobacco products was introduced in all Victorian prisons on 1 July 2015. The implementation of the ban resulted in Victoria's worst prison riot at the Metropolitan Remand Centre on 30 June 2015. See "MRC".

SMU: 1. *n* Sentence Management Unit. The Corrections Victoria unit responsible for the classification & placement of prisoners. Commonly derisively referred to as the "Sentence Mis-management Unit".

Sneak-go: 1. *vb* To assault someone while they're not looking; a surprise attack. Also pronounced as "Sneak-o".

Sneak thief: 1. *n* A burglar who commits burglaries when the occupants of the house are present (& usually asleep).

Snip: 1. *n* A small portion of tobacco. Example; "You couldn't spare a snip of Ox, could you?" 2. *vb* To borrow tobacco off another prisoner. Example; "Can I snip you for some Ox until tomorrow?"

Sorry Book: 1. *n* An imaginary book that a prisoner signs & is then allowed to go home. Often referred to by prisoners playing a joke on a new prisoner. Example; "Have you sighed the 'Sorry Book' yet?"

Sour grape: 1. *rhyming slang* Rape.

Special Buy/Spend: 1. A special purchase that prisoners are able to make on a monthly basis. The purchase usually involves an electrical item (e.g. a stereo) or an item not available on the weekly prison canteen which must be purchased from outside the prison (e.g. a music CD).

Spend: 1. *n* A prisoner's Spend account. The account containing money paid for prison work or private money deposited from someone outside the prison (i.e. a relative or friend). See "private money".

Spine, the: 1. *n* Formerly (1980-1987) the officers stations in Jika Jika/K Division & (1988-1997) the officers station in Unit 2, K Division. 2. *n* The solitary confinement punishment cells in the "spine" area of Charlotte Unit in Port Phillip Prison.

Squarehead: 1. *n* A prisoner who comes from an otherwise law-abiding background, a non-professional criminal, a prisoner who has committed a 'one-off' crime (e.g. a domestic murderer). 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **squarehead**² *Prison* a law-abiding person.

Stand-over: 1. *n* A prisoner who extorts, stands-over, other prisoners, usually for footwear, canteen items or drugs. Example; "That bloke's a stand-over". 2. *vb* To extort another prisoner. Example; "There was no need to stand-over him for his runners." 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **standover man** *noun* one who practices standover tactics; hoodlum.

Staunch: 1. *adj* Loyal. Example; "He stuck staunch when he got questioned by the Jacks."

Steered into: 1. To deviously direct someone into a confrontation with another person. Example; "He didn't have the dash to fight him so he steered someone else into him."

Stick fat: 1. *n* To remain loyal, staunch. Example; "Did he stick fat by you when you got pinched?"

Stick-up: 1. *n* An armed robbery. Example; "He got pinched over six stick-ups."

Stir: 1. *noun* Prison. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **stir**² *noun* Colloquial a prison [origin unknown]

Stir-crazy: 1. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *adjective* Colloquial mentally unbalanced as a result of being institutionalised in jail.

Stook: 1. *n* A hiding place. Example; "Have you got a good stook for that tattoo gun?"

Stooked: 1. *vb* To hide or conceal something. Example; "He stooked his drugs someone in his cell."

Street time is dead time: 1. A saying that refers to the fact that time spent in the community on parole is usually not credited by the Adult Parole Board of Victoria to a prisoner's sentence when that prisoner is returned to custody for a breach of parole conditions.

Strip search: 1. *n* A search involving the complete removal of clothing and the examination of body parts. Conducted on prisoners on reception and discharge from a prison, during searches, & before & after contact visits.

Strips: 1. *n* Strips of Buprenorphine.

Strong go: 1. To make a good attempt at doing something. Example; "He gave it a strong go." See "good go".

Sweet: 1. *n* A general expression of agreement or acceptance. Example; "Are you sweet with that?"

Swy: 1. *n* A pouch of tobacco. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) 2. *Prison Colloquial* a prison sentence of two years duration.

T

Tailors: 1. Tailor-made cigarettes (as opposed to "rollies").

Tamp(erer): 1. *n* A child molester. So-called because he 'tampers' with children.

Targeted: 1. To be specifically chosen for a "roadworthy" or a "urine". See "urine test".

Targeted urine: 1. *n* A urine test where the prisoner has been specifically chosen to provide a urine sample for urinalysis.

Tarrengower: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Tarrengower', the minimum security women's prison located near Maldon, 136 kilometres north-west of Melbourne, in western Victoria. Opened in January 1988. The prison is a working cattle farm situated on 340 acres of land.

Tattoo gun: 1. *n* A homemade & illicit device for making tattoos.

Tea-bacco: 1. *n* A contraction of "tea" and "tobacco". Following the introduction of a smoking ban in Victorian prisons on 1 July 2015, prisoners began making substitute tobacco by straining the tea out of teabags, then drying out the tea leaves and combining them with the residue steamed off prison-issue Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)

patches. The resulting mixture is then rolled into paper taken from Bibles and smoked. The 'light' is obtained from electrical elements or from wire inserted into power points.

Tea leaf: 1. *rhyming slang* A thief.

Temporary leave: 1. A temporary absence from a prison. A system of temporary leaves has existed in Victoria since 1973. Leaves are either under escort or unescorted and are for 4-72 hours duration. Repeated tightening of the leave program over the years has resulted in very few prisoners now being given leaves and usually only in the last 12 months of their sentence. See "CAPRTPP", "CCP", "CCPP", "day leaves" & "leaves".

30 grammer: 1. *n* A 30 gram pouch of tobacco.

Thomas Embling Forensic Hospital: The 100-bed forensic psychiatric hospital located at Fairfield in inner-city Melbourne. Opened in 2000 to replace the Mont Park facility. Only around 40 beds at the hospital are reserved for prisoners. See "Mont Park".

Three-out: 1. *n* A cell occupied by three prisoners.

Three-outed: 1. To be assaulted by three people. Example; "He got three-outed in the yard."

Throw-off: 1. *vb* To direct attention away from something. Example; "He left that empty pouch lying around as a throw-off." 2. *n* An excuse, usually a false one. Example; "That's just a throw-off!"

Throw-off pouch: 1. A near empty pouch of tobacco that could be displayed when another prisoner asked for a "plug" or a "snip" so that the prisoner could claim he could not spare any tobacco because he hardly had any left. See "show pouch".

Tightarse: 1. *n* A prisoner who is notorious for not lending anything to another prisoner.

Tipped: 1. To be removed from a division or unit or from a prison for disciplinary or security reasons. Example; "He got tipped from Fulham to Barwon."

Toe rag: 1. A lowly, despicable person. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) **toe-ragger** *noun* *Colloquial* 2. *Prison* a prisoner serving a short sentence.

Toff: 1. *n* A prisoner considered to be a gentleman, generous or of good character. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) *noun* *Colloquial* a rich, upper-class, usually well-dressed person; a gentleman.

TOG: 1. *acronym* Tactical Operations Group. The "security" unit at Port Phillip Prison.

Toggies: 1. *n* Members of the TOG.

Tower: 1. *n* The observation "gun towers" that were a feature of bluestone prisons. An armed prison officer would occupy these towers during the day.

Training: 1. Physical exercise but usually a reference to weight training.

Trap: 1. *n* The small trapdoor in a cell door.

Trap count: 1. A muster of prisoners conducted through the trap-doors of the cells. Synonymous with "trap muster".

Trap muster: 1. A muster of prisoners conducted through the trap-doors of the cells. Synonymous with "trap count".

Tub, have a: 1. To have a shower or wash. See "non-tubber".

Turnkey: 1. *n* Archaic term for a prison officer. 2. (*Macquarie Dictionary*) one who has charge of the keys of a prison; a prison keeper. [TURN + KEY]

Turned over: 1. To search, usually resulting in much disruption. Example; "We got turned over this morning."

Turn it up: 1. A command to stop speaking, usually when the other person is saying something outrageous, or to stop doing something. Also an expression of disbelief.

Two-out: 1. *n* A cell occupied by two prisoners. See "single cell".

Two-outed: 1. To be assaulted by two people. Example; "He got two-outed in his cell."

U

Undercover: 1. A prisoner who is suspected of being an informer.

Under the bed: 1. To conceal a dead body under the bed in a cell. Often said jokingly. Example; "If you keep snoring, I'll put you under the bed!"

Undone, brought: 1. To be implicated or to have a "rort" uncovered. Example; "I got brought undone when he red lighted me." See "red light".

Unearthed: 1. To be caught out or to have a crime or surreptitious act revealed. See "Brought undone", "Undone, brought".

Unit: 1. The term for the standard prisoner accommodation block in Victorian prisons. Replaced the term "division". Units are either numbered or, more commonly, given names from a group (e.g. ships names, the names of flowers, etc.) The standard prison unit in Victoria now holds around 70 prisoners.

Unit Management: 1. A penological philosophy introduced into Victorian prisons in 1990 whereby prisoners are divided into small groups (i.e. less than 60) & managed on an individual basis by prison officers. The aim was for uniformed prison staff to supplant the traditional roles of prison social or welfare workers so that they better know the prisoners under their control. The basis of the philosophy is that by better knowing prisoners, prison staff will be able to better control them.

Urine: 1. *n* A urine test.

Urine, dirty: 1. *n* A urinalysis sample that indicates the presence of illicit drugs.

Urined: 1. *vb* The process of producing a urine sample for urinalysis. Example; "You get urined as soon as you get off the van."

Urine test: 1. The production of a urine sample for urinalysis. Urine testing of prisoners has existed in Victoria since 1992. Prisoners are chosen either at random or are specifically targeted. The urine sample must be produced in the presence of prison officers. According to Corrections Victoria, 'urine drug testing has been the principal means of detecting drug use in Victoria's prisons since 1992' ("*Victorian Prison Drug Strategy 2002*", page 13).

V

VACRO: 1. *acronym* Victorian Association for the Care & Rehabilitation of Offenders. Formerly (1872-1974) the Discharged Prisoner's Aid Society. A welfare organization established to care for the welfare of released prisoners & their families.

Vic Pol: 1. Contraction of 'Victoria Police'.

Village of the Damned: 1. Nickname for Corella Place at Ararat, the site of cottages for sex offenders subject to an Extended Supervision Order.

Visiting Magistrate: 1. *n* A magistrate who (formerly) attended a prison in order to conduct prison disciplinary hearings. Also known as 'Visiting Justice' in other jurisdictions. 2. (*Butterworths Australian Legal Dictionary*) a magistrate appointed by the Chief Magistrate to visit a prison to deal with prison offences or report to the Minister or Commissioner for Corrective Services upon any matter relating to the security, good order, control, or management of a prison.

Volleys: 1. *n* Dunlop® Volleys sneakers™. Formerly issued as standard prison footwear. The usual practice of prisoners was to rip off the side flaps & the tongue of the sneakers so that they could be worn as slippers.

VPDS: 1. *acronym* Victorian Prison Drug Strategy. A comprehensive anti-drug strategy introduced in Victorian prisons in February 1992, reviewed in 1994 & renewed in March 2002. (see *Kaufman v Smith* (2001) 124 ACrimR 259)

W

Wagon: 1. *rhyming slang* Wagon wheel = deal. A 'deal' of drugs.

Went down: 1. *n* To be convicted of a criminal offence. Example; "He went down on that murder."

Whack: 1. *n* A punishment, especially a prison sentence. Example; "He copped his right whack."

Whack-up: 1. *vb* To divide up. Often used as a command to share something (e.g. tobacco or drugs). Example; "His visitor kicked on the visit yesterday but he won't whack-up, the tightarse!"

White Ox: 1. *n* White Ox™ tobacco. The favoured tobacco brand in Victorian prisons prior to the introduction of a total smoking ban on 1 July 2015. See "Ox".

Withheld: 1. A compulsory savings scheme instituted in Victorian prisons in 1993. 20% of a prisoner's weekly wage is deducted & placed in a Withheld account. The accumulated funds are paid to a prisoner on his or her release.

Won Wron: 1. Contraction of 'HMP Won Wron', formerly (1962-2005) a minimum security "open camp" prison located at Won Wron, 238 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, in the Gippsland region of eastern Victoria.

Work gang: 1. *n* A group of prisoners working in the community. Prisoners in minimum security prisons are regularly assigned to "work gangs" that perform community work (e.g. re-forestation) each weekday. The "work gangs" are overseen by a prison officer overseer. Synonymous with "bush gang".

Wozzle: 1. *n* A mentally disorder or intellectually disabled prisoner. Synonymous with "nuffie".

Wrecked: 1. To be overwhelmed and physically injured in a fight.

X

Y

Yard: 1. *n* An exercise yard. Example; "He's out in the yard."

Yards, the: 1. *n* The exercise yards in the former D Division of HM Metropolitan Reception Prison. Notorious for the poor conditions there (i.e. open toilets & showers).

Yatala: 1. Contraction of 'Yatala Labour Prison', the maximum security prison located in Adelaide, South Australia. 2. (*Australian Place Names*) is an area adjoining the northern boundary of the River Torrens in the Adelaide metropolitan area. Yatala was the Aboriginal name for the district. It means 'water running by the side of the river'.

Yellow Submarine, the: 1. Nickname for the Melbourne Custody Centre located in the CBD of Melbourne. The main police watch-house in Victoria, it is located underneath the Melbourne Magistrates Court and was opened in 1993. Notorious for being underground, its poor conditions & the length of time prisoners sometimes spend there (30+ days).

YOG: 1. *acronym* Young Offenders Group. An obsolete term (pre-1983) denoting the separation of young prisoners (i.e. under 21-years-old) into J Division of HMP Pentridge.

Yoggie: 1. Nickname for a young prisoner (i.e. under 21-years-old) who was in the "YOG".

Yoggies: 1. A reference to the "YOG". 2. A group of young prisoners from the "YOG".

Youngie: 1. *n* A young girl/boyfriend outside of prison. Example; "He's got a youngie visiting him."

YTC: 1. *acronym* Youth Training Centre. Archaic term for youth institutions that are now known as "Juvenile Justice Centre".

Z

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